

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) ~~A purified preparation of mammalian cells~~ A monoclonal cell line which has all of the following properties: (i) is capable of proliferation in an *in vitro* culture for more than 40 generations, (ii) does not induce tumor formation in an immunodeficient Rag1-deficient mouse, (iii) maintains the potential to differentiate to hematopoietic and endothelial cells throughout the duration of said culture, and (iv) wherein the cells are is inhibited from differentiation when cultured on a gelatinized, feeder-free layer.

2. (currently amended) The preparation cell line of claim 1, wherein ~~the cells do not express cells of the cell line express~~ none of the markers CD34, PECAM-1 (or CD31), Flk-1, Tie-2, Sca-1, Thy-1 and P-selectin ~~markers~~ as detected by immunohistochemical staining.

3. (currently amended) The preparation cell line of claim 1 wherein the cells are human.

4. (currently amended) The preparation cell line of claim 2 wherein the cells are human.

5. (amended and withdrawn) The preparation cell line of claim 1 wherein the mammalian cells are mouse embryonic cell line deposited under ATCC PTA-4300.

6. (amended and withdrawn) A method of preparing the mammalian cells cell line as defined in claim 1, comprising the steps of: (i) culturing on a feeder layer a cell source selected from the group consisting of a delayed mammalian blastocyst, an early post-implantation embryo together with its extra-embryonic tissues, an embryonic stem cell-derived embryoid body, and bone marrow tissue, (ii) selecting colonies of adherent fibroblastic cells with loosely attached rapidly dividing round cells having ring-like cells at their edges, and (iii) testing cells in the selected colonies for ability to differentiate into both endothelial and hematopoietic cells.

7. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cell source is bone marrow tissue, and further comprising the step of harvesting bone marrow tissue which retains integrity in tissue clumps prior to the step of culturing.

8. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cell source is human.

9. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cell source is human.

10. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising maintaining the selected cells on a gelatinized feeder-free layer to inhibit differentiation.

11. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising maintaining the selected cells on a gelatinized feeder-free layer to inhibit differentiation.

12. (canceled)

13. (amended and withdrawn) A method for inducing formation of new blood vessels in an ischemic tissue in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of ~~the purified preparation of mammalian cells of the cell line~~ according to claim 3 to induce new blood vessel formation in said ischemic tissue.

14. (amended and withdrawn) A method of enhancing blood vessel formation in a patient in need thereof, comprising: (i) selecting the patient in need thereof; (ii) obtaining ~~the cells cells of the cell line~~ as defined in claim 1; and (iii) administering the cells to the patient.

15. (amended and withdrawn) A method for treating an injured blood vessel in a patient in need thereof, comprising: (i) selecting the patient in need thereof; (ii) obtaining ~~the cells cells of the cell line~~ as defined in claim 1; and (iii) administering the cells to the patient.

16. (amended and withdrawn) A method of delivering a therapeutic gene to a patient having a condition amenable to gene therapy comprising: (i) selecting the patient in need thereof; (ii) modifying ~~the preparation cells of the cell line~~ of claim 3 so that the cells of the preparation carry a therapeutic gene; and (iii) administering the modified preparation cells to the patient.

17. (amended and withdrawn) A commercial package comprising ~~the preparation cells of the cell line~~ of claim 3 wherein the preparation has cells have been modified so that the cells of the preparation carry a therapeutic gene, and instructions for treating a patient having a condition amenable to treatment with gene therapy.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)